

BEGINNING THOUGHT:

The words that you think about in your mind, or that you text or email to people, or post on social media, or simply speak verbally in daily conversation — are a SPIRITUAL INDICATOR (or GAUGE) of your present relationship with God ... whether good or bad ... wise or foolish ... heavenly or hellish. —> (How are you doing with that?)

THEME VERSE - (c.f. Matthew 12:31-37 for context):

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34b)

OUR BIG PROBLEM - God hates the evil our tongues are capable of ... and often do!

(Proverbs 6:16-19) — “There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.”

OUR EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM - We have a heart-problem, not merely a tongue-problem!

(Matthew 15:18-20) — 18 But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”

TONGUE TAMING - (James 3:5-6; 8-10)

Hell is in your mouth and that ought not be the case!

“THE LIPS OF THE FOOL...” — Truisms from Proverbs

(Proverbs 6:12) - “A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth.”

(Proverbs 10:19) - “When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable”

(Proverbs 11:13) - “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets”

(Proverbs 12:13) - “An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips”

(Proverbs 12:18) - “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword”

(Proverbs 14:25) - “he who utters lies is treacherous”

(Proverbs 10:18) - “He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool”

(Proverbs 12:23) - “the heart of fools proclaims folly”

(Proverbs 13:3) - “The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.”

(Proverbs 14:3) - “In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back”

(Proverbs 14:7) - “Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge”

(Proverbs 14:23) - “mere talk leads only to poverty”

(Proverbs 15:1) - “a harsh word stirs up anger”

(Proverbs 16:27) - “A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are like scorching fire.”

(Proverbs 16:28) - “A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends”

(Proverbs 17:7) - “Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, much less are lying lips to a prince”

(Proverbs 18:2) - “A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.”

(Proverbs 18:6-8) - “A fool’s lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.”

(Proverbs 18:13) - “He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.”

(Proverbs 24:1-2) - “Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them; for their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble.”

(Proverbs 26:19) - “Like a thorn which falls into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.”

(Proverbs 27:2) - “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.”

(Proverbs 29:20) - “Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

HEART CLEANSING - (Psalm 51:1-17)

God does the miraculous for you because you can't do it for yourself!

"THE LIPS OF THE RIGHTEOUS..." — Truisms from Proverbs

- (Proverbs 10:11) - "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life"
(Proverbs 10:13) - "On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found"
(Proverbs 10:20) - "The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver"
(Proverbs 10:21) - "The lips of the righteous feed many"
(Proverbs 10:31) - "The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom"
(Proverbs 10:32) - "The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable"
(Proverbs 12:6) - "the mouth of the upright will deliver them"
(Proverbs 12:14) - "A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words"
(Proverbs 12:17) - "He who speaks truth tells what is right"
(Proverbs 12:18) - "the tongue of the wise brings healing"
(Proverbs 12:19) - "Truthful lips will be established forever"
(Proverbs 15:1) - "A gentle answer turns away wrath"
(Proverbs 15:18) - "the slow to anger calms a dispute"
(Proverbs 16:13) - "Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and he who speaks right is loved."
(Proverbs 16:23) - "sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness"
(Proverbs 31:9) - "Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy"
(Proverbs 21:23) - "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles"
(Proverbs 24:26) - "He kisses the lips who gives a right answer."
(Proverbs 25:15) - "By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone"
(Proverbs 28:23) - "He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue."
(Proverbs 31:26) - "She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

Concluding Thought:

Jesus stepped down from His heavenly throne and put on human flesh—because He loves you! He lived the perfect life that we should have lived—but didn't. He willingly went to the cross and bore God's wrath for the sins of the world. When you turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, God forgives you and gives you a new heart. Go, and honor Him with the fruit of your lips, your mouth, your tongue, and your heart. And go, tell someone about all of the glorious things that Jesus has done for you!

Discussion Questions:

1. What conversations have you had recently that you need to ask forgiveness of from the person you spoke to?
2. Why don't we use our words more often to encourage people, rather than to criticize, slander, or gossip?
3. Give an example of when someone encouraged you with their words, and explain how it made you feel.
4. How have your conversations and "speech" changed since you trusted in Christ as your Savior?
5. How has social media impacted your use of words and communication, and affected your relationships?